



# NEWS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### TENNESSEE BOASTS RECORD HIGH WHEAT YIELD

NASHVILLE, July 12, 2006 – Based on a recent survey administered by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, the State’s 2006 winter wheat yield was 61.0 bushels per acre, surpassing the previous record by a dramatic 5 bushels. Winter wheat production in the State increased 38 percent from 2005 to 11.6 million bushels. Last fall, Tennessee farmers seeded 280,000 acres, 40,000 acres more than the previous year and the first area planted increase since 2000. Of the 280,000 planted acres, producers harvested 190,000 acres for grain, also 40,000 more than a year ago. The remaining 90,000 acres were used as a cover crop or harvested for hay or silage. Excellent conditions during harvest and virtually no disease or weather problems were largely responsible for this record yield. The crop developed on-schedule with an early harvest.

### U.S. WINTER WHEAT UP 1 PERCENT FROM JUNE FORECAST

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.28 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from last month but 15 percent below 2005. The U.S. yield is forecast at 41.1 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month but down 3.3 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain totals 31.1 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2006, but down 8 percent from last year. Harvest progress, in the 18 major producing States, was 65 percent complete by July 2. This was 9 percentage points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. Record high yields are expected in Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

#### Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., July 1, 2006 with Comparisons<sup>1</sup>

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>		<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	
Arkansas	160	300	52.0	61.0	8,320	18,300
Georgia	140	130	52.0	45.0	7,280	5,850
Kentucky	300	310	68.0	73.0	20,400	22,630
Mississippi	65	70	50.0	57.0	3,250	3,990
Missouri	540	870	54.0	53.0	29,160	46,110
North Carolina	435	450	57.0	54.0	24,795	24,300
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>11,590</b>
Virginia	160	170	63.0	66.0	10,080	11,220
United States	33,794	31,108	44.4	41.1	1,499,129	1,280,005

<sup>1</sup> 2006 forecast, 2005 final.

### TENNESSEE PEACH PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO DECLINE

Tennessee peach production for 2006 is estimated at 1,700 tons, down 15 percent from last year’s production of 2,000 tons. This crop was produced on 500 acres of bearing land. Hail, frost, and lack of rain in the major producing areas were the main reasons reported for the 300 ton decrease in production.

### U.S. PEACH FORECAST

The July 2006 forecast of U.S. peach production is 1.06 million tons, down 11 percent from 2005 and 19 percent below the 2004 crop. Half of the 28 Freestone peach estimating States expect increases in production from last year, while 12 States decreased their production from the previous season, and 2 States showed no change. The South Carolina peach crop is forecast at 60,000 tons, equal to the June 1 forecast but 20 percent below 2005. A late frost and freeze occurred during bloom and early fruit development. Widely scattered hailstorms also caused extensive damage to some producers’ peaches. Other growers are reporting a good peach crop. Georgia’s peach crop is forecast at 42,000 tons, down 16 percent from the June 1 forecast but up 5 percent from 2005. Hot, dry weather during June reduced Georgia’s peach crop.

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